

Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the floor. The German delegation first of all would like to thank the Secretary-General for providing such a detailed and concise report **well before this Assembly session**. I wanted to highlight this very fact because too often it is neglected when documents are actually made publically available on time.

Mr. President, distinguished fellow delegates, please let me highlight three issues in relation to the Secretary-General's comprehensive report on behalf of the German delegation:

- Firstly, on the **issue of finances**: The German delegation has noted with particular interest that certain changes implemented by the Secretariat have resulted in significant cost-savings. Efforts such as these render the Authority as a whole more efficient. Germany considers this to be absolutely necessary – and we therefore welcome the fact that the Secretariat is exploring the potential for further cost savings in other areas. We are always glad to hear that the **principle of cost-effectiveness** is not only mentioned in theory but also implemented in practice. In this context, the German delegation would also like to highlight the cooperation with e.g. the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in Hamburg which, according to the Secretary-General's report, will also result in cost-saving measures.

On a different, but related note, the delegation from Germany would like to inform the Assembly that we received a note from Berlin just this morning. This note entitles me to promise a contribution to the **Voluntary Trust Fund for the members of the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee**. I am delighted to announce that Germany will contribute **25.000 USD** to that fund, in order to facilitate the participation of members of those bodies from developing countries. We are glad that we can offer this support to enhance the inclusiveness of the very important deliberations in these bodies of the Authority.

- Secondly, regarding the **enhancement of knowledge** and the **improvement of structures and processes**: I would like to mention the submission to the Council by Germany which we discussed last week. Therein our delegation raised a few issues and put forward a few practical suggestions for facilitating the work of the Authority. We look forward to further discussing it later this week. While the submission was widely supported by other members of the Authority, we would like to acknowledge that certain elements have already been improved to some extent.

For example, the Secretary-General's report provides in much more detail **information on both recent and upcoming workshops**. This is highly appreciated, as it makes it easier for member states and other stakeholders to plan ahead deliverables, milestones and travel obligations in between sessions of both Council and Assembly. In this context, I would like to mention that the German Environment Agency and the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Science (IASS) will convene an International Expert Workshop from 26-29 November 2018 in Potsdam, i.e. close to Berlin, Germany, in order to discuss issues in the context of the benefits arising from activities in the Area and possible sharing mechanisms.

In addition, we particularly welcome the launch of the database of the Authority, which will facilitate very much the submission of contractor data in electronic format and the distribution of environmental data to researchers.

Furthermore, the Secretariat's reaching-out to the **Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection GESAMP** is also welcome as it strengthens and improves environmental expertise available to the Authority. This is, as has e.g. been highlighted by Algeria on behalf of the African Group this morning, an important step forward, and relates to as well addresses ideas mentioned in several submissions last week, including our own submission as well as a non-paper from Belgium. That being said, there is, as always, still further potential for improvement.

- Thirdly, we appreciate the promotion of marine scientific research through the Authority with particular emphasis on issues relating to the environmental impact of activities in the Area and its participation in the JPI Oceans Mining Impact project. Both activities ensure an independent evaluation of the potential effects of future deep sea mining.
- And finally, let me add one more remark: The German delegation would also like to **officially congratulate Dr. Diva Amon** for receiving the Secretary-General's **Award for Excellence in Deep Sea Research** yesterday. It is not only her scientific expertise but also **both her willingness and great ability** to communicate her research to the general public – as we just have witnessed during the side-event this morning. This combination is rare, which makes Dr. Diva Amon not only a role model for future female scientists from developing countries, but also a truly deserving awardee.

In this regard I would like to mention that Germany is strongly engaged in the **contractor training programme**. Within the past four years, we provided training possibilities for **14 trainees from developing countries** including training on-board research vessels and post-cruise training in our research facilities.

Thank you, Mr. President.